

Title (en)

A pay phone system or a pay service system.

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Application

EP 85116107 A 19851217

Priority

DK 608684 A 19841218

Abstract (en)

In a pay phone system, a plurality of pay phone apparatuses (40) and a remote central computer (54) are included. The pay phone apparatuses (40) communicate with the central computer (54) through telephone lines and further via a telephone central exchange (52). The pay phone apparatuses (40) are operated by means of magnetic cards (55, 56 or 57) or optionally by means of coins. Each card (55, 56 or 57) includes information or data readable from the card and identifying the card and further representing an amount corresponding to an allowable telephone call duration. The pay phone system is operated in the following manner: The card (55, 56 or 57) is received in a card receiving slot (42) in the apparatus (40) and the data of the card are read from the card and stored in a first storage means of the pay phone apparatus. The first storage means of the pay phone apparatus is addressable from the remote central computer (54) for transferring data stored in the first storage means to the remote central computer. In a second storage means of the pay phone apparatus, data transferred from the remote central computer (54) are stored. In a comparator means of the pay phone apparatus, the data read from the card and stored in the first storage means are compared to the data stored in the second storage means. By the comparison, the card is identified as a legal card or as an illegal card identified by the data of the second storage means. In case the card is identified as an illegal card, the card is rejected from the pay phone apparatus. In case the card is identified as a legal card, a telephone call is permitted. In a debiting means, an amount corresponding to the duration of the telephone call is determined and in a subtraction means of the pay phone apparatus, the amount is subtracted from the data stored in the first storage means representing the amount corresponding to an allowable telephone call duration, and a reduced amount is generated and stored in the first storage means. When the amount determined by the debiting means exceeds the amount corresponding to the allowable telephone duration, the telephone call is interrupted. At the end of the telephone call, the data stored in the first storage means are written in the card by means of a writing means of the pay phone apparatus and identifies the card and further represents the reduced amount corresponding to an allowable telephone call duration. Periodically, the remote central computer (54) addresses the first storage means of the individual pay phone apparatus and transfers the data stored therein to the remote central computer for processing therein. On the basis of the data transferred from the first storage means of the individual pay phone apparatuses, the remote central computer updates the data of the second storage means of the individual pay phone apparatus.

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